THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (c) During the current year there has so far been a significant upsurge in the arrival of foreign tourists. The number of foreign tourists, excluding nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, who visited India during 1984, 1985 an January-September, 1986 along with percentage of change are as given below:

Year	Number	%change over previous year
1984	835,503	—5·6
1985	836,908	0·2
1986 (Jan.—Oct.)	773,608	17·1*

*Compared to Corresponding period of previous year.

The steps initiated by the Government to increase foreign tourist traffic to the country include improvement in infrastructural facilities, special overseas publicity and marketing campaigns, increase in the airlines capacity, offering of facilitation for tourist charters and improvements in the airport arrival and departure facilities.

Trade agreements signed with Australia, New Zealand and Thailand

*107. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trade agreements signed during the recent tour by the Minister of Commerce alongwith the Prime Minister to Australia, New Zealand and Thailand; and

(b) what effective follow-up action is being taken by his Ministry to increase our trade with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Only one trade agreement was signed with New Zealand during the recent visit of Prime Minister to that country.

(b) In the light of the discussions held during the Prime Minister's visit the these countries, exchange of trade delegations, promotion through participation in trade fairs, inter action at official level and contacts through public sector organisations etc. are contemplated.

Delay in payment of loan by the Bombay Dyeing Company

*109. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank and the the Union Bank of India accepted the request for the delay in payment of principal amount of rehabilitation and other loans by the Bombay Dyeing Company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that where as Bombay Dyeing's request was granted by these banks, the delay in payment by other sick units on this account was not condoned; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Several textile units had been sanctioned rehabilitation assistance under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines depending on the merits of each case. Repayment schedules in respect of these mills had also been recast. Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Ltd. was also sanctioned a rehabilitation term loan by a consortium of banks which was authorised by the RBI. The Company has requested for reschedulment of this loan. This request is under consideration of the concerned banks/institutions. The Company has also requested for reschedulment of certain term loans in

respect of its DMT project. This request is also under consideration.

Concessions to tea industry

*111. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announcd a package of concessions to tea industry for boosting thereof; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how far tea exports are likely to go up as a result of these concessions?

*THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) Measures taken in the recent past to increase exports of tea include, higher cash compensatory support on value added teas, excise rebate of 50 paise per kg. on export of bulk tea, full rebate of excise duty on exports of packet teas, exemption of excise duty on tea bags, exemptions of customs duty on filter paper used in manufacture of tea bags etc.

These concessions will have a favourable impact on tea exports. During April-September, 1986, exports of tea are provisionally placed at 79.79 million kgs. valued at Rs. 240.47 crores as compared to 72.63 million kgs. valued at Rs. 233.36 crores during the corresponding period of 1985.

Unclaimed provident fund amount

*112. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated unclaimed provident fund amount as on 31st Octorber, 1986 in the country;

(b) whether Government have made any efforts to locate the genuine claimants; and

(c) if so, how much unclaimed provident fund was paid durng the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The information as on 31st October, 1986 is not readily available. However, according to the EPF authorities, a sum of Rs. 16.29 crores was lying unclaimed in their Unclaimed Deposit Account as on 31-3-1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. The EPF authorities have been instructed to make all out efforts to locate the subscribers who have not preferred their claim. Claimants for about Rs. 10.60 crores have been identified by the EPF authorities.

(c) The information is as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount
1983-84	12·93
1984-85	26·40
1985-86	15·18

Closure of foreign branches of nationalised banks

*113. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 percent of the foreign branches of the nationalised banks will be closed down within the next six months as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's drastic reorganisation plan for overseas banking operations;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the total number of foreign branches of nationalised banks at present countrywise?